

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: Douglas J Renze <drenze@grind>
Subject: [3253] "Pixie" boards/kits?
Message-ID: <Pine.3.05.9509171110.A12473-a100000@grind>

My club is talking about doing a kit-bash for hams who've never built before. I'm more or less in charge of it, and I thought that the Pixie would be a nice kit to do. I was wondering, though, whether there were boards available somewhere for it, and-could-somebody-puhLEEZE-send-me-the-info-on-where-to-get-them-if-there-are? (whew! try saying *that* 10 times fast!) I kinda hope there are, otherwise I've got to do the boards myself. Blech.

Tnx in advance.

Doug Renze, NOYVW * drenze@isca.uiowa.edu * NOYVW @ W0IUQ.ia.usa.na

Encrypted with rot0, the only encryption scheme 100% approved
for export by the NSA.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: etillona@interserv.com
Subject: [3256] ARCI Award Info
Message-ID: <199509172138.AA10957@relay.interserv.com>

I would like to find out about the ARCI Awards Program. What awards are available and how to apply for them and where to send submittals.

73, Emil
de KD1F #8328

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: Goran Hosinsky <hosinsky@royac.iac.es>
Subject: [3254] Help with connectors
Message-ID: <9509171702.AA11131@royac8.royac.iac.es>

Last time I was over to our neighbourhood island, Tenerife, where there are some electronic shops I bought a bunch of PL-259 with adaptors for RG58 (I thought). Tonight I was starting to solder them when I found that they did not have adaptors but were like the PL-259 for RG8, only with a RG58 hole on them. So far so good, they screw nicely onto the

RG58, center braid comes out where it should

BUT

when I started to solder the braid I found that it was flopping around inside the holes. The inside diameter of the connector where the braid should be soldered is too big. It is even greater than the diameter where the connector screws on the the RG58 including isolation.

There must be a way to mount them, otherwise they would not be fabricated (I suppose). But how? And I did buy a bagfull to construct my central switchboard for the shack.

Please tell me how!!

73 Goran ea8yu hosinsky@royac.iac.es

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [3260] KC1 Keyer & Frequency Counter
Message-ID: <199509180531.WAA25458@usr5.primenet.com>

My KC1 kit arrived Saturday, and was assembled that evening. Very nice, with a clear and well-written manual.

It's not wired to the NC 40A yet...took a while for these old eyes to find some of the xcvr connection points on the board. Here is where a pcb template would have come in handy. Found some ribbon cable in the junk box to use, so I hope to have it completed in a day or so and then report on it's function.

Nice job, Wayne, and kudos to Bob at Wilderness for a nicely packaged kit. Might have to get some more to go into the OHR rigs.

72, de Roger, AA7QY

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: "Richard Hieber" <SZ0026@daphne.rrze.uni-erlangen.de>
Subject: [3262] OHR WM-1
Message-ID: <7E47FBE2E9E@daphne.rrze.uni-erlangen.de>

Gang,

last weekend I was in Weinheim at one of the biggest Ham Radio meetings

in Germany (> 10.000 visitors). Bought - finally! - the things that I need for my portable cubical quad that is running through my head for a few months now ;-) I need to come up still with a good design for the center frame that holds the fibreglass poles. One of my goals is having a rotatable 2-ele delta loop for 40m (only slightly shortened with linear loading and with a less than optimal distance between the loops). I am afraid this will take a lot of time for experimenting, and the weather is getting colder. Maybe only next year, and I will dream all winter about it ;-)

I took my QRP wattmeter, the OHR WM-1 with me to the meeting because I wanted to check the calibration with professional measuring equipment. I had replaced the original toroids in the coupler with bigger ones from Amidon (red material, suitable for 2-30 MHz), because I wanted to have the PWR-meter in line also when I was running full power with my Kenwood TS-440 (100 watts). The old cores saturated and got hot. I had rewired the OFF position to measure 100 watts but with the old cores the meter would show only 60 watts at full power. With the new cores, all fine and dandy, after re-aligning the internal potentiometers (I measured the RF voltage at the dummy with my oscilloscope, computed the RF power and adjusted the display accordingly).

The lab there in Weinheim that I could use was not equipped with real power, even for QRP standards ;-) But they had a signal generator from Rhode&Schwarz which was capable up to the 16dBm level, equivalent 40 milliwatts, enough to produce a halfscale reading on the lowest measuring range at the WM-1. Frequency was adjustable up to VHF, maybe more (I didn't check). Power was adjustable in steps of 1dB. I trusted that this professional highpriced piece of equipment held its output power reasonable constant about the whole frequency range, so I didn't worry about this.

What dampened my mood somewhat was that the WM-1 seemed to be a bit too much frequency dependent. With the 16dBm level at the signal generator at 14 MHz and careful adjustment of the WM-1 to give the correspondent reading of 40mW at the WM-1, I had a reading of about 35mW at 30 MHz, of about 32mW at 50 MHz, of about 52mW at 5 MHz, about 25 mW at 2 MHz and finally abt 7 mW at 1 MHz. Even if I look only at the core measuring range of 3-30 MHz, the variation is between 35 and 52 mW. Shouldn't I expect higher precision?

The meter was terminated with a high-quality 50 ohms dummy load. Above 50 MHz, I started to see reflected power, so I didn't look beyond that frequency. BTW, I read the instructions that were posted here on the list several months ago, how to modify the coupler to make it fit for up to 144 MHz. I had tried them out, but it didn't work. Did somebody else have success with this?

Also the scale of the WM-1 didn't fit exactly. I made the following table at 14 MHz:

signal generator (dBm)	signal generator (mW)	approx. OHR meter reading (mW)
0	1	0.5
3	2	0.9
6	4	2
9	8	6
10	10	8
13	20	19
16	40	33

This deviation, though it is up to 100 percent, I could correct easily by calibrating the meter scale myself. If done with a laser printer, it wouldn't spoil the outward appearance of this fine piece of equipment. I couldn't check, for lack of a measuring transmitter with higher power, if the scale behaves the same in the other measuring ranges, but I guess so. The non-flat frequency response, on the other hand, is something that I don't know how to handle. How could I possibly flatten the curve?

I didn't do this kind of measurements with the original cores installed, so my apologies if my results startle the owners of an unmodified WM-1 unnecessarily. I wonder if the nonlinearity in my measurements comes from the toroid properties alone, or if this is introduced by the design of the coupler.

Some weeks ago I heard that OHR is testing internet access to see if it's useful for them. If they are still online, I'd like to forward my results to them and I would of course like to hear their opinion.

72,
Richard

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Richard Hieber, DL8MFQ/AA8CP
sz0026@daphne.rrze.uni-erlangen.de

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: Steve Slavsky <sslavsky@CapAccess.org>
Subject: [3259] Pixie 2
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.950917212920.23727K-100000@cap1.capaccess.org>

Tried to send this to Doug, but message bounced-

HSC Electronics, in Santa Clara, CA, sells the Pixie 2 as a complete kit for \$9.95 including one crystal. You supply case, jacks, etc. I don't know if they will sell the board alone. I purchased 2 (one for a friend) and we will try to do some 80M milliwattting in Northern Virginia.

HSC's number is 1-800-442-5833 (they take plastic). There was a great article on this rig in the June, 95 QRPp.

73 & 72,

Steve, N4EUK Reston, VA

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: Dennis Marandos <k1lgq@dennis.mv.com>
Subject: [3258] QRP AFIELD - I can't wait for the next one!
Message-ID: <199509172317.TAA26142@granite.mv.net>

QRP AFIELD is now history and the pencils, logs and card tables are put away and did I have a great time!

As I approach this contest, excitement gets heavier as the bands starts to pop in my ears and the signals waft through my head. The antennas set, the coax is swinging in the breeze and the CW is pumping through my earphones. The cold bottles of coke (tonic, here in New England) are just an arm's reach away and the quick snacks are just behind me with the accent of getting down to some very serious contesting.

YES, QRP AFIELD is buzzing and I'm on top of things with my watt-meter, antenna tuner and field-strength meter all lined up in front of me, giving me spontaneous readings of how I'm going to "rack" a high score because I know everything is going just right for me. The sun is beaming down and the breeze is a zephyr flowing over my shoulders, with azure blue linings tilted toward the sky line, dotted with glimpses of raw cotton fixtures in the horizon. It's time to truly get-down to some very serious contesting.

The bands are buzzing and the signals are fantastic and I can't believe how strong everything is coming through my homebrew. This is the

test of all tests, the cream de la cream of what I have been waiting for all spring and throughout the summer and now it's here and my keyer is stationed in front of me, waiting for the spectacular moment when I'll send that first dot, the first dash, when my rig will light up all my meters and the RF will flow. Electrons will flow and the wires will get hot with excitement. YES, it is time for some very serious contesting. QRP AFIELD here I come...get ready.

The logbook is ready, the coax is positioned, the signals are booming and it's time for my first attack on a very serious contest. Yes, here is the moment when I reach for my bug, keyer, hand key and find that this is the moment of truth. The moment when boys turn men, the moment when novice turns pro, the moment when ladies detect delectations upon you lips, the sweat on your brow and then....

As with all good moments, this one is no different than the others. If ever there were to be a time for a presage, a moment for a homebrew to burn out, to fizzle, to go 'puff,' this is not the moment! However, alas, the transistor gods on MT Olympus have deemed it necessary to point their finger in jest and have zapped my rig to dust! No signal will ever prevail from the ashes of this phoenix for it has been destroyed. A quick hunt for a spare 2N3553 and it's back to worshipping the contest of all contest. YES, this is the time when men's souls are tested, their mettle is challenged and a step-up to a very serious contest is initiated.

It was fun and is now history but, boy do I have a lot to learn. Wait till next year.

Dennis Marandos- K1LGQ
Editor - New England QRP Club newsletter

The Greeks Have A saying For It.

"If you want to put out the fire, do not add oil."
Translated: Add not fuel to the flame.

Dennis Marandos - K1LGQ
Nashua, New Hampshire

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: af852@rgfn.epcc.Edu (William R Colbert)
Subject: [3264] QRP Plus
Message-ID: <9509181356.AA20046@rgfn.epcc.Edu>

Fellows, please excuse this means of messaging. Ernie, AA1IK, I got your fax re: the QRP Plus upon my return from Belize. Many thanks. I lost your E-Mail so using this means to advise you of the receipt.
72/73 Ray, W5XE/V31XE

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: Bill Acito 18-Sep-1995 0915 <acito@asdg.ENET.dec.com>
Subject: [3263] QRP-NE; well how'd ya do?
Message-ID: <9509181317.AA28846@us1rmc.bb.dec.com>

Didn't get a chance to total everything up, but I figure 15 QSO's, +/- 8 mult, 4 points each, about 500 points. Not bad for about 4 hours of operating, all 40 or 20.

Best QSO: answering Dave, FY/DJ0xx/QRP's CQ on 20, 449 both ways.

Lots of QSB and QRN in New England... but I'm not complaining; Sunday was our first rain in several weeks.

And everyone else?

b

. - I own my own words -

Bill Acito	d i g i t a l
acito@asdg.enet.dec.com	Digital Equipment Corporation
	Hudson, MA

KC1GS ... qrp-ne 260 ... norcal 1147 ... qrp-arci 8955 ... arrl life

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: "Bill Kelsey - N8ET - Kanga US" <kanga@brutus.bright.net>
Subject: [3257] Who asked about Pixie boards??
Message-ID: <199509172141.RAA14855@brutus.bright.net>

To whoever asked about the Pixie boards - send me an e-mail. My reply to the address on the post to the list bounced....

I have a few of them, and a source for more.

73

73 - Bill Kelsey - N8ET

Kanga US

kanga@bright.net

419-423-4604

[HTTP://qrp.cc.nd.edu/kanga/](http://qrp.cc.nd.edu/kanga/)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995

From: Erik Werner <werner@cadman.cit.buffalo.edu>

Subject: [3255] Re: "Pixie" boards/kits?

Message-ID: <199509171810.0AA17053@cadman.cit.buffalo.edu>

>

> My club is talking about doing a kit-bash for hams who've never built
> before. I'm more or less in charge of it, and I thought that the Pixie
> would be a nice kit to do. I was wondering, though, whether there were
> boards available somewhere for it, and-could-somebody-puhLEEZE-send-me-the-
> info-on-where-to-get-them-if-there-are? (whew! try saying *that* 10 times
> fast!) I kinda hope there are, otherwise I've got to do the boards
> myself. Blech.

>

> Tnx in advance.

If you can forward the response to me as well, I'd appreciate it as my attempts on the pixie using perf board failed and the only thing I get through the headphones are the oscillations. What I would do for just static! :)

Erik

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995

From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>

Subject: [3261] Re: ARCI Award Info

Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.950917234140.8060A-1000000@vortex>

Emil,

Watch for some details in the Oct issue of the Quarterly.

It should be in the mail as we speak.....

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
.....ARRL.....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 18 14:07:00 1995
From: N5EM@aol.com
Subject: [3252] Re: Mystery of Lead Acid Battery Self-Discharge Solved
Message-ID: <950917101540_21531241@emout04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-09-16 10:22:11 EDT, you write:

>I have been doing battery maitainance in one form or another for MaBell for
>29 years now, and I never get tired of "Cold floor battery debate".
>
>

Ernest,

Also, in my experience with telco batteries, they are never placed on a cold concrete floor. They have always been in some kind of rack, maybe only 4 or 5 inches off the floor, but always off it. I think that has been very effective in keeping the battery at room temp.

Gang,

I think here is the key. My house has a concrete floor right below that carpet. Now, in Houston I don't especially worry about things like freeze line but if your floor gets significantly colder than room ambient temp you should probably make yourself a rack to keep them elevated. If you put your batteries in a garage, maybe even an enclosure (properly vented so they don't blow up on you!).

The specific gravity layering effect starts to explain a lot. Of course, if you can explain all the things that happen in Ni-Cads, we'll all become very reverent while you speak.

Ed